(a) whether it is a fact that over 40 skins of tigers and leopards were seized in one of the biggest hauls in North Delhi on April 6, 2005;

(b) if so, the details and cost of the haul; and

(c) the findings of the investigation made into the racket particularly the *modus operandi* of the poachers/smugglers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 45 uncured leopard skins and 14 uncured otter skins were seized in North Delhi on 6th April, 2005. The value of the seized produce can not be determined since there is no permitted trade of wildlife articles.

(c) Three persons were arrested in the present case. The matter is under investigation with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Drying inland wetlands

4709. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the finding of a UNDP study on the drying up of a large number of inland wetlands in the country since 1991; and

(b) if so, the causes responsible for the same and steps proposed by Government to check the process and to revive these wetlands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The finding of the UNDP Report entitled "Inland Wetlands of India-Conservation Priorities" by Salim Ali Centre for Orinthology & Natural Hisotry (SACON) presents information about wetlands of the size generally ranging between 2 to 56 hectares in 72 districts located in 10 States. Wetlands in 33 districts in the studied category are reported to have undergone spatial reduction. However, there is no corroborative evidence of these findings.

(b) The UNDP Report has attributed causes for spatial reduction in 33 districts to lack of awareness about values of wetlands, to not giving them

the importance that they deserve and not recognizing them as a separate entities.

The Central Govt. provides assistance for various components of wetland conservation and management like catchment area treatment, de-silting, dredging; biodiversity conservation, deweeding & awareness-creation for wetlands generally of the size of 100 hectares and above. However, wetlands of smaller size with unique biodiversity and cultural significance may also be assisted. Assistance for wetlands is provided on the basis of well-formulated Management Action Plans received from State Govts.

Euro-III

4710. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has expressed its inability to supply fuel and as a result switching over to Euro-III is delayed by one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Reliance industries has also expressed its inability to produce Euro-III fuel till next year;

(c) if so, how the Ministry is thinking of implementing Euro-III norms in the country; and

(d) the details of cities that are now following Euro-I, II and III norms in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Euro III equivalent emission norms have been implemented for new vehicles, except 2 & 3 wheelers, in 11 mega cities from April, 1, 2005, in accordance with the road map of Auto Fuel Policy.

(d) Bharat Stage-II emission norms for Petrol driven vehicles including 2 & 3 wheelers have been introduced all over the country from April 1,2005. For diesel driven vehicles also, these norms have been introduced all over the country from 1st April, 2005, except in the seven States namely Rajasthan, West Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab where they are to be implemented in a phased manner by 1st October, 2005. In the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur